

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11265 201725Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /096 W  
-----064022 202244Z /41

R 201512Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1970  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11265

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, UR  
SUBJECT: GAMSAKHURDIA'S TV CONFESSION

1. DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN WESTERN WIRE SERVICE REPORTS  
OF VIDEO-TAPED CONFESSION OF ZVIAD  
GAMSAKHURDIA, WHICH WAS AIRED TOWARD END OF NATION-WIDE  
TV NEWS PROGRAM "VREMYA" EVENING OF MAY 19. OUR TAPE OF  
THE PROGRAM INDICATES THAT GAMSAKHURDIA MENTIONED ONLY  
ONE SPECIFIC WESTERN CONTACT, FORMER EMBOFF IGOR  
BELOUSOVITCH.

2. GAMSAKHURDIA'S REFERENCE TO BELOUSOVITCH WAS AS  
FOLLOWS: "IN 1974, THROUGH MY MOSCOW ACQUAINTANCES, I  
ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF  
EMPLOYEES OF BOURGEOIS EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW, IN PARTICULAR  
WITH FIRST SECRETARY OF THE POLITICAL INTERNAL SECTION OF  
THE US EMBASSY, IGOR BELOUSOVITCH. FROM HIM I RECEIVED  
ANTI-SOVIET LITERATURE, PUBLISHED ABROAD AND SENT INTO  
OUR COUNTRY FOR DISTRIBUTION." GAMSAKHURDIA THEN MOVED  
ON TO HIS OWN ACTIVITIES AND MADE NO FURTHER  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11265 201725Z

REFERENCE TO BELOUSOVITCH OR WESTERN EMBASSIES.

3. COMMENT. TV PLAY OF GAMSAKHURDIA'S STATEMENT PUT  
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON HIS FATHER, PROMINENT GEORGIAN WRITER  
KONSTANTIN GAMSAKHURDIA. IN INTRODUCING THE STATEMENT,  
THE TV ANNOUNCER FIRST REFERRED TO ZVIAD AS "SON OF THE  
WELL KNOWN GEORGIAN WRITER, KONSTANTIN GAMSAKHURDIA."

AND ZVIAD'S STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH HIS NOTING THAT HIS FATHER HAD KNOWN NOTHING OF ZVIAD'S ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITIES, AND HAD ALWAYS EDUCATED ZVIAD IN THE SUPERIORITY OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM AND LOVE TOWARD THE SOVIET PEOPLE. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT IN CONTRAST TO TASS ACCOUNTS OF ZVIAD'S STATEMENTS DURING THE TRIAL ABOUT SAKHAROV AND SPECIFIC US CORRESPONDENTS, ZVIAD DID NOT REFER TO THESE INDIVIDUALS ON TV. THIS SUGGESTS THAT ZVIAD'S TV PERFORMANCE MAY HAVE INVOLVED BARGAINING BETWEEN HIM AND THE AUTHORITIES, WHO APPARENTLY WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED TO PROVE THAT HIS ACTIVITIES WERE ENTIRELY UNKNOWN AND CONTRARY TO THE VIEWS OF HIS PROMINENT FATHER. THIS ANGLE OF THE GAMSAKHURDIA CASE MAY HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZED IN LIGHT OF THE RELATIVELY VOLATILE NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS OF GEORGIAN INTELLECTUALS AND THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE GENERALLY. CONSONANT WITH THE OFFICIAL LINE TAKEN BY THE PROSECUTOR DURING THE ORLOV TRIAL, ZVIAD'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE GEORGIAN CSCE MONITORING GROUP WAS NOT MENTIONED ON TV.

4. WE SEE NO NEED TO ALTER OUR PRESENT PRESS GUIDANCE ON BELOUSOVITCH. MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PRISONERS, ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** GAMSAKHURDIA'S TV CONFESSION  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, SOPN, UR, US, CSCE, (GAMSAKHURDIA, ZVIAD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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